



The Northland Sky Watcher

NWS DLH

Volume 9 Issue 2

Fall 2004

*For National Weather Service Weather
Watchers of northeastern Minnesota and
northwestern Wisconsin.*

Inside this issue:

Dave Schuldheisz 2

Welcome 2

Snow Spotters 3

Winter Outlook 3

A Hairy Story 4

Cloud Stamps 5

e-Spotter 5



- Winter officially begins on December 21st at 6:41 a.m.
- Winter Weather Awareness Week is November 8-12
- Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am Sunday, October 31st. Turn your clocks back one hour before retiring Saturday night.



Coleraine is StormReady!

The town of Coleraine, MN has been named a *StormReady* community by the National Weather Service. Coleraine is the first and only community in northeastern Minnesota to receive the recognition and one of seven in the state.

Mike Stewart, Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service's Duluth Office made a presentation to the Coleraine City Council at its September 27th, 2004 meeting.

"Being named StormReady means that the people of Coleraine can be assured that the town is prepared for a weather disaster—their warning and communication systems and their emergency action plans are up to par with what is expected of a StormReady community," said Carol Christenson, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Duluth NWS and the chair of the local *StormReady* Advisory Board.

StormReady is a voluntary preparedness program designed by the National Weather Service (NWS) to equip localities with the means necessary to help save lives and property both before and during severe weather events.

Through the guidelines developed by the NWS in conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency management experts, participants in the *StormReady* program have demonstrated their commitment to taking a proactive approach to improving public awareness of and local response to hazardous weather.

More information on the StormReady program can be found online at www.stormready.noaa.gov.

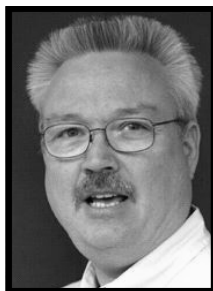


Tim Thomas, left, the emergency manager of Itasca County, congratulates Coleraine Emergency Manager Jeff Kuck, on obtaining StormReady status for Coleraine.





Emergency Manager Leaving the Ranks



Dave Schuldheisz, longtime Emergency Manager of Crow Wing County, MN, will take off his emergency management hat and focus on veteran's affairs. The veterans affairs and emergency management positions had been combined, but with the ever-growing demands on both positions, Crow Wing County will be separating them. This forced Schuldheisz to choose between the positions. As difficult as it was, he had personal reasons to stay with helping the veterans.

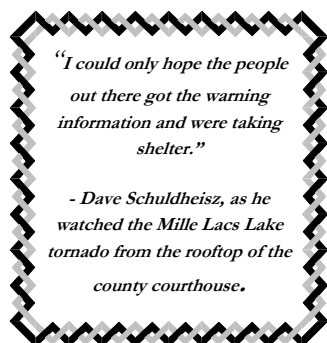
Dave started in emergency management as a volunteer Skywarn storm spotter with a local CB radio club in 1975 and by 1982 he was the assistant in emergency management.

As an emergency manager, Dave has seen a lot of wild weather. His most memorable summer storm was the Mille Lacs Lake tornado of July 3, 1985. He remembers receiving the tornado report from a spotter as it was headed toward Garrison. He and his staff communicated the warning by making phone calls and sounding sirens. Once all his work was once done, he felt helpless standing on the rooftop of the county courthouse as he watched the tornado head toward Deerwood. His preparedness efforts paid off—the F2 (strong) tornado caused no injuries or deaths.

Dave has been a great help to the NWS. He has been a Skywarn spotter trainer since 1988 and has trained numerous spotters, giving us a bit of a break. Although he will not continue to train spotters, he is going to keep his Skywarn spotter certification up-to-date so he can finally be able to watch the storms roll in instead of staffing the emergency operations center during severe weather.

What Dave will miss most about the emergency management side of the house is the camaraderie with other local emergency managers. What he will miss the least is the paperwork and the late night weather watches. Although we will miss Dave as an emergency manager, he says we will see him in the audience at the spring spotter training courses.

Keep your eyes on the sky, Dave, and thanks for all your years of help.

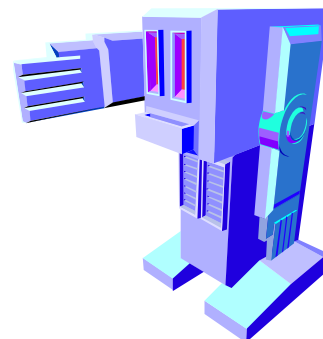


Welcome, Toby!

Meet Toby TenHarmse, our new Information Technology Officer (ITO), or the guy who keeps are computer programs humming along. Toby came to us from the weather office in Syracuse, IN where he was a meteorological technician. In order to qualify for the ITO position, Toby gained experience on the job and took computer classes at Purdue University.

Toby spent four years in the US Air Force, where he was a weather observer at Wright-Patterson AFB and did a five-month tour in the Middle East. After the Air Force, Toby entered the NWS in 1995 at Dayton, OH. He also worked at South Bend, IN; Chattanooga, TN; and Elko, NV.

Toby and his wife have three children and live in the north woods of Wisconsin. Toby enjoys hunting, fishing, tennis, and golfing. He and his family also enjoy 4-wheeling.





Snowfall Spotter Program Update

Although it may have been too brief for some, summer is gone and winter is at our doorstep. It is time to drag out those sweaters and boots (if you ever put them away)!

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Amanda Brandt, and I am the new Snowfall Program Manager at the National Weather Service (NWS) in Duluth, MN. I have been with the NWS for two and half years, but just arrived at the Duluth weather office this past June.

Snowfall spotters are a crucial element to winter season forecasts, advisories, watches, and warnings. These spotters are volunteers from across the northland who report the real-time snowfall amounts and storm totals to the Duluth NWS.

The reports from the snowfall spotter network are used in numerous ways to keep the public informed and safe during the winter season. The NWS sends the reports to the media, as well as local officials, so that they can relay current conditions and snowfall amounts to the public. For example, school officials use the snowfall spotter's information to aid in making school closing decisions. State departments of transportation use the information to assess what roads need to be closed and how many plows to dispatch.

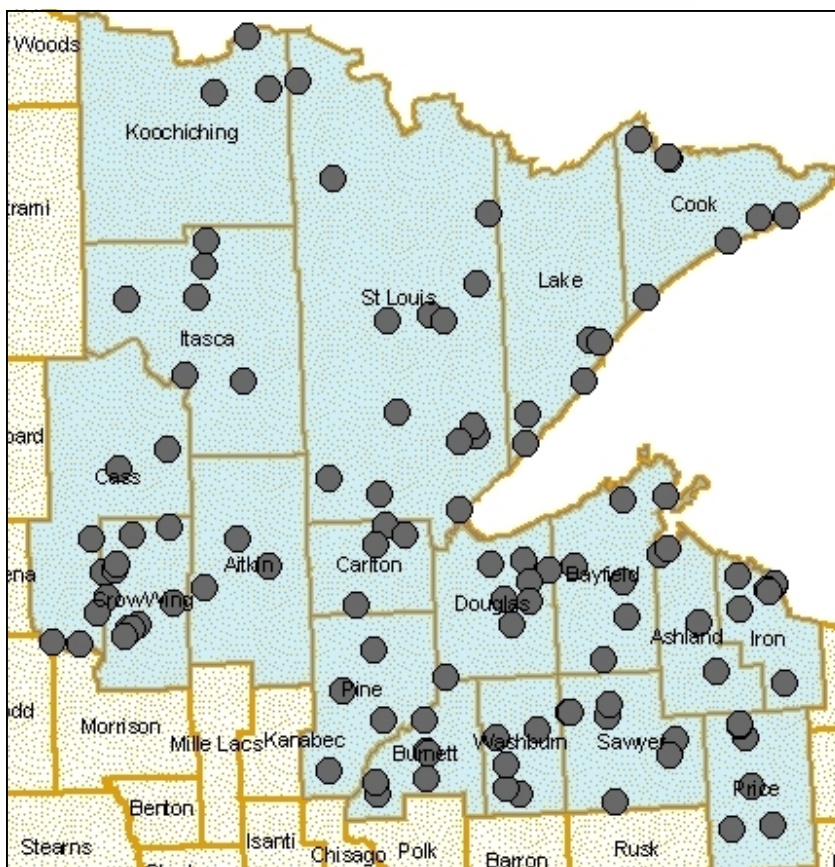
Last winter there were over 100 official snowfall spotters in the northland network, but more are needed! If you live or work in an area that lacks an observer (see map at right) and would like to become an official spotter, please let us know by phone or e-mail! Once you are registered I will send you a packet of information.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions- about snowfall or anything! Also, don't forget to check out the ***All About Snow*** website for bunches of

great links, forecasts, climate, records, the latest snowfall totals, as well as instructions for spotters!

[www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/All about Snow](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/All_about_Snow)

You can reach me through our forecast line at (218) 729-6697 or by e-mail at amanda.brandt@noaa.gov.



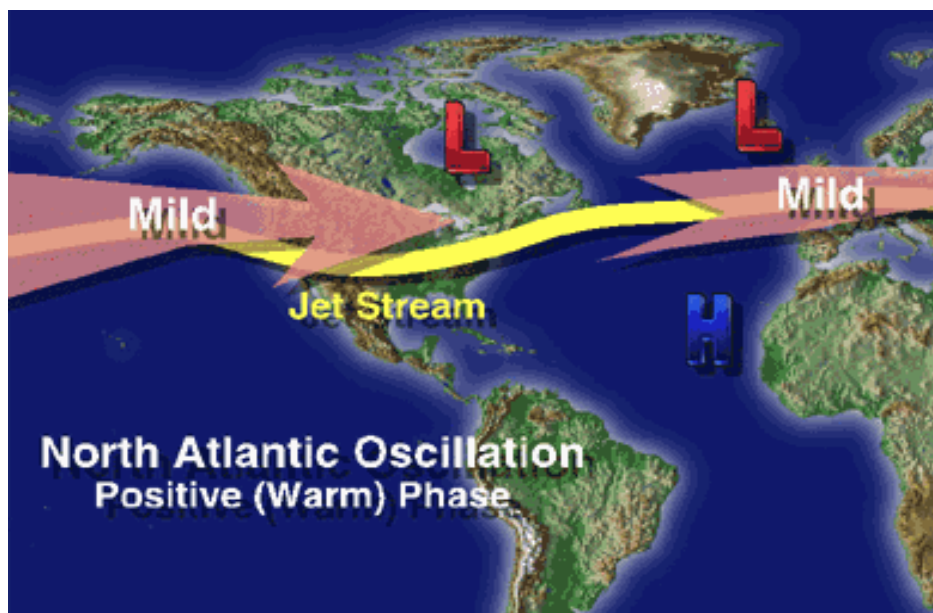
Shaded circles indicate snowfall spotter locations in the northland.



What's Coming This Winter?

Let's Ask Our Science Guy!

What's in store for this winter? Well, El Niño and the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) may have something to say about it. What are they anyway, and why do we care?! We care because they both affect how the jet stream will flow across the United States during the winter months. As the jet flows, so the storms go. To clarify some definitions, El Niño is a warming of the equatorial waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean, near South America. The NAO refers to the strength of the low pressure center near Iceland, and the strength of the high pressure center near the Azores Islands off of Africa. Forecasters from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) have indicated that a weak to moderate El Niño and a positive phase NAO are expected this winter season.



A positive phase NAO means the low and high pressure centers will both be stronger than normal. This will cause the jet stream to be stronger across the northern U.S., which will tend to push storm systems much faster across the upper Midwest. This means the storms will not have much time to drop a lot of snow and that cold Arctic air will not penetrate very far south into the Great Lakes region.

What does this mean for us? The winter outlook from the folks at the CPC takes into account these two phenomena, as well as many other indicators. The official word on the winter for the Upper Midwest is for a warmer than normal, and drier than normal winter season, which consists of the months of December, January, and February.

- Ed Shimon, Science and Operations Officer

NWS Staffer Donates His Hair

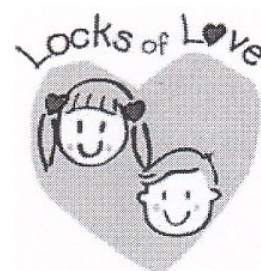
Don Price proudly calls himself cheap. For three years Don, the electronic systems analyst at the NWS in Duluth, skipped his regular haircuts, growing his hair to a length of 12 inches. When he finally got a haircut, it was free since he donated his cut hair to *Locks of Love*. He also figures he saved nearly \$300 on haircuts.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Don's hair-growing venture began as a protest against

his wife, who had cut their young daughter's long hair into a bob. A few days later he caught a television show that was discussing the *Locks of Love* organization, and that is when he knew his hair-growing goal. The minimum hair piece length *Locks of Love* accepts is 10 inches.

So what is Don up to now?—growing his hair, of course! Stay tuned to the *Northland Sky Watcher* for updates on Don's hair!



Information about *Locks of Love* can be found on the internet at www.locksoflove.org.



You don't Have to Look up to See the Clouds— Just Visit Your Post Office

In recognition of National Stamp Collecting Month, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will be issuing a series of stamps featuring clouds. The 15-Cloudscapes commemorative postage stamps were released on October 4, 2004.

The stamps are arranged according to altitude and nine of the basic cloud genera are pictured on a pane of fifteen stamps. (Nimbostratus, a dark, featureless cloud marked by falling rain or snow, is not included.) Brief text on the back of each stamp identifies and describes that particular cloud type.

Since 1981, the U. S. Postal Service has designated the month of October as National Stamp Collecting Month (NSCM) to introduce children to this popular and educational hobby. The NSCM program also raises awareness about the recreational benefits of stamp collecting among all age groups.

The Postal Service traditionally kicks off NSCM by issuing new commemorative stamps. This year Cloudscapes will be the featured stamps. Subjects featured in past years include Reptiles and Amphibians, American Bats, and Looney Tunes animated film characters.

Stamp collecting, also known as philately (pronounced fill-AT-ely) is considered the most popular hobby in the world. Collectors can specialize in new or used stamps, stamps issued by different countries, or stamps featuring a specific theme (called topical collecting). The most popular modern U.S. commemorative stamp was the Elvis stamp, issued in 1993.



To learn more about U.S. stamps and stamp collecting, go to the Postal Service Collector Corner on the internet at:
www.usps.com/shop



Hey Spotters! Watch for e-Spotter!

Are you on-line? Maybe you wish to report weather to us via the internet. If that is up your alley, keep an eye on our website (www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh) for this new feature called e-Spotter. E-Spotter is an experimental project to make it easier for spotters and emergency managers to make reports to National Weather Service offices via the internet. The system is being developed to enhance and increase timely and accurate online spotter reporting and communications between spotters and their local weather forecast offices. We'll take any weather reports via e-Spotter—rainfall, snowfall, severe weather, and marine observations. By late October we'll have our e-Spotter page ready to go, so log on and register!





NWS DLH

5027 Miller Trunk Highway
Duluth, MN 55811

Phone: 218-729-6697

Editor: Carol Christenson

E-mail: carol.christenson@noaa.gov

Assistant Editor:

Edward Flenz

The northland's weather experts



US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NOAA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
5027 MILLER TRUNK HIGHWAY
DULUTH MN 55811

Some interesting facts from last winter...

September 30, 2003: International Falls reported its first measurable snowfall for the season at 1.1".

October 27, 2003: Duluth NWS received its first measurable snowfall of the season at 4".

Christmas Day 2003; Duluth NWS and International Falls both had 3" of snow on the ground. Hayward, WI had a snow depth of 5" while Hurley had 20" of snow on the ground.

January 24, 2004; International Falls' coldest temperature last winter was -36 degrees.

January 29, 2004; Duluth's coldest temperature last winter was -30 degrees.

January 25-27; 3rd biggest snowstorm in Duluth history with 27.1" of snow

2003-2004 snowfall total at the Duluth NWS was 109.9"; International Falls had a total of 70".

2003-2004 seasonal snowfall at Hurley, WI was 191.1", a far cry from their state record of 277.2" set in the winter of 1995-96.

